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**John P. Gallivan
Director**

To Whom It May Concern:

Ms. Erin Wopperer has asked me to write her a letter of recommendation and it is with mixed emotions that I do so. Due to the fiscal crisis at the state and local levels, Ms. Wopperer will not be rehired in the Social Studies Department here at Stoughton High School for the 2009 – 2010 school year. As the Director of the Social Studies Department I am deeply saddened to lose such a motivated young educator.

I first met Ms. Wopperer in January of 2008 when she served as a student teacher in my department. We knew right away that we had found something special. She was enthusiastic, innovative and connected in a wonderful way with both the students and the staff at Stoughton High School. We were fortunate later that spring to be able to hire Ms. Wopperer to fill a maternity leave opening in our department for the rest of that school year and then in the summer of 2008 Ms. Wopperer was hired for a full time position for the 2008-2009 school year.

Ms. Wopperer threw herself into her first year on staff at Stoughton High School. She proved her versatility by successfully teaching both U.S. History and American Studies at three different ability levels. Not content to just contribute in the classroom, Ms. Wopperer volunteered to advise the Xclusive Knights, the Stoughton High School Urban Dance club and was able, despite her demanding schedule and workload, to make herself available to her students for countless hours, beyond contractual time, for help, advice, support and friendship.

I have enjoyed the observations I've conducted in Ms. Wopperer's classroom. She maintains a friendly learning environment and demonstrates fairness, impartiality and patience in working with her students. The mutual respect between students and teacher is quite evident and by treating her students with the intellectual integrity they deserve, the students rise to the occasion. Ms. Wopperer's mastery of the subject matter allows her to elaborate beyond the text when illustrating themes and characters, and her lectures, discussions and PowerPoint presentations are incisive clearly presented and appreciated by her students. Her planning recognizes and provides for individual pupil interests, needs and abilities.

Sadly, our loss could be your gain. I recommend Ms. Erin Wopperer for any Social Studies opening that you may have available.

Sincerely,



John P. Gallivan
Director of Social Studies